

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body defining a top opening, a sealing surface being defined on the container body encircling the top opening; and

a closure sealed to the sealing surface by a heat-seal material ~~comprising~~:

the heat seal material consisting essentially of a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

2. (Original) The container of claim 1, further comprising a ring-shaped end member attached to the container body encircling the top opening, the sealing surface being defined by the end member.

3. (Original) The container of claim 2, wherein the end member comprises metal.

4. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

5. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

6. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

7. (Original) The container of claim 1, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

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8. (Original) The container of claim 7, wherein the first and second ionomers are present in approximately equal proportions by weight in the heat-seal material.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A closure assembly for a container, comprising:  
a ring-shaped end member having a curl portion configured to be attached to a flange of a container by double-seaming, the end member further comprising a portion located radially inwardly from the curl portion and defining a sealing surface; and  
a flexible membrane closure configured to attach to the ring-shaped end member;  
wherein each of the end member and the closure has a heat-seal material disposed thereon for attaching the closure to the end member by heat-sealing, the heat-seal material ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

12. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

13. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

14. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

15. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 11, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially

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neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

16. (Currently Amended) A member for a closure assembly of a container, comprising: a ring-shaped end member having a curl portion configured to be attached to a flange of a container by double-seaming, the end member further comprising a portion located radially inwardly from the curl portion and defining a sealing surface, and a heat-seal material disposed on the sealing surface for attaching a membrane closure to the end member by heat-sealing, the heat-seal material ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

17. (Original) The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

18. (Original) The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

19. (Original) The member of claim 16, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

20. (Original) The member of claim 16, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

21. (Currently Amended) A flexible membrane closure for a container, comprising: at least one structural layer of flexible material; and

a heat-seal material joined to the at least one structural layer and exposed at one surface of the closure for heat-sealing to a sealing surface provided on a container, the heat-seal material ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of first and second acidic ionomers having respectively higher and lower acid content such that the heat-seal material has an acid content intermediate between that of the first and second ionomers.

22. (Original) The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer has an acid content of about 15% by weight and the heat-seal material has an acid content of about 11% by weight.

23. (Original) The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

24. (Original) The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.

25. (Original) The flexible membrane closure of claim 21, wherein the first ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and methacrylic acid wherein methacrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation and the second ionomer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and acrylic acid wherein acrylic acid groups are partially neutralized with a cation.